TALKING OF PENSIONS.

Consideration and Passage of the Pension Appropriation Bill in the House-The Bland Bill in the Senate.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6. The Senate debated the Bland seignforage bill, and disposed of routine business, and concluded with an Executive session.

The House went into Committee of the ing been reached by unanimous consent to close general debate at 3 o'clock to-morrow. Gen. Sickels (N. Y., D.) took the floor and

of acceptance of the Presidential nomination saying that the debt due the defenders of the Union should be ungrudgingly discharged. Upon that pledge to the soldiers, said Gen. Siekles, the Democratic party stood and won political victory. The Secretary of the Interior should exercise a watchful and patient supervision of that Bureau, and the President of the United States should see to it that there was a fulfilment of the patriotic and wise senti-

ments enunciated in his letter of acceptance. To the Commissioner of Pensions, he said, was committed a vast responsibility and GREAT TRUST. He must, of necessity, confide much of his duty to subordinate officers. They may not

not always be active and vigilant in the examination of claims. Congress has a right to expect from the Commissioner and his superior officer, the Secretary of the Interior, and especially from the President, a wise and liberal administration of the principles enunciated in the President's letter of acceptance.

But he could not, Gen. Sickles said, agree say: "We want the pension-roll to be a roll of with the Commissioner of Pensions in respect to his interpretation of the law of 1893. In his

The statement in the preamble to the resolution declaring a pension to be a vested right is inaccurate, inapt, and inappropriate in the use of those That is not a decorous way to treat an act of

Congress, in a communication to a superior officer, and before it was sent to this House in answer to a resolution of inquiry. The Secretary of the Interior should have returned it to the Pension Bureau with an admonition to treat this House and its legislation with due respect. [Applause on the Republican side.]

Those two words, vested right, are not inaccurate, inapt, nor inappropriate. The Commissioner is as unfortunate in his law as he is in his manners. [Applause.] He had only to go to a law dictionary to find out what is a right and what is a vested right; and for his information I will read from Bouvier's Law Dictionary: A right is defined to be a well founded claim. And while I am in the law line I will read a little more. If a man demands his property, which is withheld from him, the right that supports his demand is a perfect one. Now, when a pensioner demands that his pension be paid to him, which the law of the land says he is entitled to, and which has been withheld from him without authority of law, that right is a

Rights are absolute and qualified. A man has the absolute right to recover property which belongs to him. Therefore, a pensioner HAS AN ABSOLUTE BIGHT

to demand the payment of the pension the law of the land has given to him. Now, what is a vested right? That is defined with equal clearness. To vest is to give to you a fixed right; an estate is vested in possession when there exists a right of present enjoy-

The pensioner has a right to the present enjoyment of his pension, vested in him by the law of the land. Therefore, it is a vested right; and the use of those words was apt, appropriate, and correct [applause], the law of the Pension Office to the contrary notwithstanding. [Laughter and applause.] So we have not only bad manners, but bad law from that Bureau. [Renewed laughter and applause.]

The Chairman of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of this House, with the sanction of his committee, brought in the amendment to the urgent deficiency bill passed Dec. 21, 1893. There was occasion for it, sir. An army of 12,000 men had been denied their pensions, without authority of law, by a subordinate official; and so far as I know, without interference from his

The remonstrances made all over the country against the action of Commissioner Lochren

SUSPENDING PENSIONS

were manifestly just, in the judgment of Congress. To stop the pensions of an army of men, without a hearing, was wrong. It was cruel to hold a threat of impoverishment over every soldier and every widow on the pension roll. Mr. Chairman, I can give the committee abundant reasons, drawn from the compilation of the pension laws published by the Pension Bureau, for the act of December, 1893. They print them for other people to read; they ought to read them themselves. [Laughter and applause.] These laws declare that upon a certain state of facts being shown the applicant "shall be entitled" to receive so many dollars a month from the Government.

The whole pension system, as embodied in this volume, rests upon the solid ground of the right and title in the pensioner to the amount awarded to him by law. "Shall be entitled" is the language of the law in more than a dozen statutes. The most precious rights of the civizen are vested in him by statute. The right of suffrage is enjoyed by statute. The right of inheritance is enjoyed by statute. These are vested rights. The civil rights of men, in this country and everywhere, rest upon statute. You would awaken a very serious response from the American people if you told them these were not vested rights. But there is more in this compilation. It is good reading for the Pension Bureau, if they would look through it.

Let me invite attention to the solemn declaration of the act of June 21, 1879: But in no case shall a pension be withdrawn or reduced except upon notice to the pensioner and a | that the act of 1890 is especially responsible

hearing upon sworn testimony. Coming to the act of 1890, under which so

any pension or claim allowed or due such pen-sioner or claimant under this act shall be deemed

held many thousands of pensious during the past | was so disabled as to be entitled to a pension of | it in a condition where it would have been utyear; that they were wrongfully withheld is \$72 a month! proved by the fact that most of them have been restored; most of them had been granted under this act; the act of withholding these pensions | Black. He found at the Pension Office that is declared by law to be a misdemeanor, no

In the Early Days

of cod-liver oil its use was limited to easing those far

advanced in consumption. Science soon discovered in it the prevention and cure of consumption.

of cod-liver oil with Hypophosphites of lime and soda has rendered the oil more effective, easy of digestion and pleasant to the taste.

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a Democratic President. It expresses the just other. That act, sir, will stand. [Applause.] Springtime.

It ought to stand. Mr. Milliken (Me., R.) spoke at length. Among other things, he said: He who declares that in hundreds and thousands of neighborhoods fraudulent pensioners are known, and seeks to give the impression that pension frauds are common in all parts of the

A MALIGNANT ENEMY

of the veterans of the Union armies, whatever his pretensions of friendship to them may be, because he declares against them what every intelligent man in the country knows is not true. I was not a little surprised that the gencorded him to speak in without rebuking that disgraceful slander upon his old comrades, but on the contrary gave it at least the consent

had read an extract from Mr. Cleveland's letter The gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. Enloe] on yesterday, and the gentleman from Illinois Gen. Black] on Saturday, and they who from preceded them in the same line, prefaced their on a attacks upon the pension laws and upon the old soldiers by saying they desired that the pensionroll should be a roll of honor; that it should be untainted with fraud; that they wished to have it clean. Have these gentlemen ever heard any one say that he did not want a clean pensionroll? Have they ever known any Grand Army Post in this country to resolve that they wanted anything but a clean pension-roll, or desired

that it should be anything but a roll of honor? When I was a student at school it used to be laid down in our elementary books that one always have the judicial faculty; they may of the most skilful and effective sophistries was to state first a self-evident truth, or something universally conceded, to get the mind to accept that, and then draw the mind to accept another theory which in fact was by no means a logical consequence of the first. So our friends upon the other side of the House who

ATTACK THE PENSION-ROLL

honor, a roll that is not tainted with fraud; hence the existing pension-roll is tainted with letter to Congress, in answer to the resolution | fraud." [Laughter.] But, Mr. Chairman, that of inquiry, the Commissioner had said in sub- does not follow by any means. The utter absurdity of such an argument no one, upon reflection, will fail for a moment to perceive, Pension frauds do not exist extensively in anybody's district. I have never heard the to every citizen, it is a charge of wholesale pension frauds made on this floor and sustained, or in any considerable degree sustained. Like the boy's 10,000 squirrels, when put to proof they dwindle down to 100, then to 50, then to one, and then to only a suspicion of one. [Laughter.] They have never been shown in debate here to materialize. It is only the enemy of pensions or the entirely uninformed who utter and send broadcast these slanders upon the veterans of the Union

I could not but admire the assurance and effrontery of the distinguished gentleman from Illinois [Mr. Black], who on last Saturday stood here before at least a fairly intelligent audience to advertise the Democratic party to the country as the friend par excellence of the old soldier and of pensions. How deep an impression does he expect his assertion will make upon the neighbors of those old soldiers, when they see their pensions withheld or cut off, and the veterans thereby plunged into destitution

and suffering? Gen. Grosvenor (Ohio, R.) asserted that the estimates submitted by the Commissioner showed that it was not intended to favorably adjudicate a large proportion of the applications now pending in the Pension Office, and he called attention to the fact that out of 150 claims recently examined in a day by an Examiner, 125

HAD BEEN REJECTED.

lation and policy of the Government. Not a single exception of the Mexican veteran bill. which, he claimed, was the source of the great-Democrats in Congress, while not a single Republican vote was recorded against them. Taking this record into consideration and also that the Democratic party on this subject.

Do you think that the old soldiers of this rebellion. country are to be humbugged by beautiful utterances? asked the General. Do you think they do not know who has done all this, and who has refused to do all this? My comrades of the war are a most intelligent body of

Mr. Grosvenor took up the letter of Commis-

by statement. He proved that the WHOLESALE CHARGES

against the pensioners were false; that the alleged frauds were either those already known and published throughout the country and perpetrated by pension attorneys and others, or claims that were illegally vouched for and presented, but not already allowed. In all this he showed that in no instance was any ex-Union soldier concerned.

What is required to entitle a man to be a pensioner? Our friends seem to have overooked that question entirely. Even the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. Black], with his long | which was enacted June 27, 1890. experience in the Pension Office, seems to be utterly oblivious as to what it is that constitutes the claim of a soldier to a pension. What difference does it make, under the law of 1890, whether the soldier served in the army in battie or otherwise? There is but a single condition imposed by that law, and when the soldier complies with that condition he stands by the law of his country, and he has a right to stand by it, and no man has a right, be he President or Congressman or crossroads politician, to de-

nounce that right. The claim of the soldier is based upon the facts that he served in the Union army for 90 days, that he was honorably discharged, and that he is now suffering under a pensionable disability. It is not necessary to show that it connection another mass of

INCOMPETENT TESTIMONY or demurrable proof is sought to be introduced. The allegation is that there are thousands of dishonest pensioners on the pension-rolls, and

That is the charge; now what is the evimuch of this mischief has been done, I read | dence? The evidence is that there are soldiers on the pension-rolls that never were in battle! Any person who shall wrongfully withhold from | And at one time, when Judge Long was as. | measure are very often likely to move amend-B pensioner or a claimant the whole or any part of sailed, it was claimed by the Pension Depart. ments apparently in the same direction, for the ment that an argument proper to be used express purpose of accomplishing the defeat of guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by fine or im- against him was that he had brains enough still | that to which they are opposed. The attach-The Commissioner of Pensions has with- lived, and that therefore it could not be that he | providing for a service pension would have put

Gen. Grosvenor made a strong defense of the Representatives. Ohio regiment slurred in the speech by Gen. had said they were 100-day men, when they were one-year men, and he had claimed that since they did nothing but guard a railroad and reasoning by showing that many 100-day regiregular regiments and who had been honorably

worn, battle-scarred veterans, Another class, we may as well admit, was made up as we said our enemies had made up some of their troops, by robbing the cradle and side about that time. The other side got a great | publican Administration. deal shorter, and we had that advantage when we enlisted the 100-day men and the one-year men, we took in a lot of young fellows who had grown up from boyhood since the beginning of the war, and we also enlisted a class of men who under the law would have been exempt from service, men past the age when they could have been compelled to go into the service. It is not strange, therefore, that these 100-day

regiments and these ONE-YEAR REGIMENTS present a greater ratio of disabilities than the

other Ohio regiments. He described the desperate service; the frequent encounters with the enemy and the losses. There were no birds singing there as the gentleman says there was down at Cairo. There

was death. The commanders or the Confederate troops sent the very flower of their men to cut off the rear. Anybody who stood at Pulaski on a cer-

matter by whom the act is done. Therefore, | tain day in August, 1864, and saw the column Mr. Chairman, I affirm that there was cecof Forrest deployed, three men dismounting casion for passing the act of Dec. 21, 1893. All and two men leading the horses away, with the parties in this House voted for it. It was deadly Enfield rifle in the hands of the dispassed by a Democratic Congress and signed by | mounted men, and the assault that was made upon the hill south of that town, will not unsentiment of the country from one end to the dertake to talk about birds and flowers and

WHAT DID WE DO? The authorities in the North ordered these 100day men, officered by the very flower of our army, who had served their time out-men who had served in the ranks and become Captains and Majors and Colonels-those 100-day men were sent under the command of such men to guard these stockades and to open up and protect our line of communication. And the old troops were gathered together-were massed in the army of Sherman and hurled upon the Gate City of Georgia, and ultimately made the triumphant march to Atlanta and the sea, while their brethren of the 100-day regi-Whole for the further consideration of the | tleman from Illinois [Gen. Black] should let the | ments stood in the rear and made it possible | pension appropriation bill, an agreement hav- occasion pass when he had unlimited time ac- that our lines of communication should be kept open. [Applause.]

Gen. Grosvenor dwelt at length upon the suspension of pensioners in Ohio in 1893, and showed out of 2,000 suspensions, 1,300 were reinstated without examination in order to affect the vote in that State. He referred also to Deputy Commissioner Murphy's visit to the time to time since I have been in Congress have | Soldiers' Home in Dayton on the eye of election

POLITICAL MISSION. and quoted some remarkable circulars sent out by the Ohio State Democratic Committee to the old soldiers. In these documents the soldiers who had been suspended were told that the suspension was "due to some Republican sneak in your neighborhood," while whenever a pensioner was granted an increase that fact was made known to him first by the State Committee, with the hint that he should vote for the party that had increased his pension. These actions Gen. Grosvenor characterized as crimes which in any other than a political bureau would have raised a storm of protest and indignation throughout the country.

Gen. Grosvenor concluded: The system of the Pension Office is an unauthorized and illegal system, and I put in very few words my claim in regard to this branch of the subject. I say that in a Government which guarantees to every man that he shall not be convicted of crime without a trial by jury; that he shall be confronted with the witnesses against him; that he shall have compulsory process to procure witnesses in his favor; that he shall be defended by himself or counsel at his election-in a Government whose fundamental law gives these guaranties

CRIME AGAINST PUBLIC JUSTICE to take from the soldier the pension which has been awarded to him at the end of a litigation, quired from him the proof of the legality of his sion, or to suspend it, or to brand him by im- | mit that is within the limit. plication with dishonor and dishonesty is a | That will give to the South, including the violation of the common principles of law and | negroes, 2,000,000 fighting white men during justice, and a plain outrage upon the rights of | the war who must have been in the service or the soldiers of this country.

remarks, made this statement: Much is be- making in all a really fighting population of ing made in the arguments on the other 2,800,000 men. was being soiled by placing names upon it 2,300,000 men. which should not be there. That cry came from any other source."

with fraud, had long been heard in the land. ern army. He took issue with the statement made last | case of fraud was developed. He spoke of the | Record. Gentlemen may make the calculation Saturday by Gen. Black, that the Democratic | Mexican service pension bill, which was passed, | for themselves. I have not gone to the muster party was not unfriendly to the pension legis- giving allowances to men who, in a great ma- roll at all, but I have gone to the census in single general appropriation bill, with the the destruction of the Government. The of- ples who met in that conflict. est abuse ever known in the Pension Bureau, under the National flag and at the National that have been before Congress since 1878, had received the votes of a majority of the expense. There was a great sentiment against | showing that about 600 Democratic votes had of President Cleveland, the soldiers of the made at the same time to satisfy to a reason- record of President Cleveland on the matter of country view with distrust the assertions of able extent the demand for a service pension votes of pension bills placed against that of

stantially in the nature of that which I had | diers. proposed, we gave way and allowed the passage

sioner of Pensions and dissected it statement of the Mexican pension bill, and it became a law. Finally, after a hard fight, and after nearly everything we in the Senate had contended for was gone, we passed the measure with a limited and comparatively unimportant provision for the soldiers of the Union-which was all we received for generously yielding to the urgent need of the soldiers of the Mexican war-and

EVEN THIS WAS VETOED by the President. He then went on to discuss the act of June 27, 1890.

Mr. Talbert (S. C., D.). The gentleman seems to be dissatisfied with the present law, the law Mr. Blair, Not so much dissatisfied with the law as with its administration. Mr. Talbert. I wish to ask the gentleman this

question: When that law was under discussion in the first session of the 51st Congress, did not Mr. Yoder (Ohio, D.), then a member of the House, move to recommit the bill, with an amendment providing that a service-pension bill should be incorporated with it, and is it not the fact that the members of the Republican party all voted against the motion to recommit, in order that the service-pension bill might be enacted in its place? Is it not a fact that the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. Grosvenor], who has so eloquently spoken against this bill, also recorded his vote against that recommittal? Mr. Blair. I presume the gentleman is right.

was caused by service in the army. In this I would have expected something of that kind. An amendment of that sort would have been the surest way to KILL THE BILL.

Mr. Talbert. Would not Mr. Yoder's motion to recommit the bill, with instructions to report that provision I have offered, accomplish what the gentleman favors now?

Mr. Blair, I take it this is the gentleman's first experience in Congress. Perhaps he will discover after awhile that the enemies of a to be a Judge of a court in the State where he | ment to that bill at that time of an amendment

On the 1st day of July, 1893, continued Mr. Gen. Black meant the 1824 Ohio. The General names, and six months later, Dec. 31, 1893, 966,142, an increase of but 130 names, and original applications had fallen off materially, says the Commissioner. Not much wonder at that. stockades, their service could not have disabled | Or, testing the work in another way. There them. This Gen. Grosvenor proved fallacious | were first payments during the first six months of fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, \$33,756,549, ments and one-year regiments were made up of at the rate of \$67,513,098 per year. First paythe men who had served two and three years in | ments of six months from June 30, 1893, to Dec. 30, 1893, \$4,769,310, at the rate of \$9,538,620 per discharged at the end of 1864; hardened, time. | year under present Administration wholly, as against \$67,513,098 under Republican Administration, all but last three months. Doing either less than one-sixth of the work, or if doing the same work, cutting off the pensioners, with less the grave. We got a little short of troops on our | than what they were receiving under the Re-

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The truth is, they were DISALLOWING THE CLAIMS,

reducing amounts to these allowed, and con-centrating their great affort upon a general raid upon pensions already allowed under the adjudication of former Administrations—combining thus every conceivable form of assaulting and destroying the operation of our wise and hu-mane system of pension laws. Again, consider this subject in the light of these figures:

The last Republican Administration appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894, the sum of \$166,530,250, and estimated for the next year, ending June 30, 1895, \$180,000,000. This Democratic bill apprepriates for this last year but \$151,581,590, or \$28,418,460 less than would have been undoubtedly expended by the Republican Administration-or in round numbers \$30,000,000 belonging directly to the soldiers of the Union army.

That is confiscation of pensions. If this process goes on the pension system is destroyed. The increasing age, disability, and want of this vast body of men and women and children will require more and more pecuniary aid.

Who shall render it? Shall they suffer and starve for the want of the millions which are theirs by every motive of decency and gratitude and by the express provisions of law? Shall the Nation which they saved bear the burden of love, or shall it be placed upon the local communities, mainly of the North? With the destruction of our industries waged

in the Wilson bill, with an income tax to be paid almost wholly by the North, and with the soldiers, despoiled of their pensions, cast dependent upon the loyal States it would indeed seem that the South is once more in the saddle, and the North groveling humbly at the stirrup of her power.

Mr. Blair went on to speak of the comparative sizes of the Union army and the rebel army: Assuming that the colored population, which was the producing population, was of as much consequence as though it had been white, and it seems to me that you must admit that they were more so, because without them at home how would it have been possible to have carried on your farming or to have kept your army in the field for three months?

Now, it is a very low estimate to say that there was one fighting man for five of the entire population. They give us a little more than one voter, you know, to every five of the population, and I assume that as the basis of military strength on both sides.

It is just as fair for one side as for the other, and probably it is substantially correct, although you get good fighting men who are only 15, 16, and 17 years of age, as you know. Upon that basis the Northern military force would be 4,000,000 at the outbreak of the war, and the Southern white force 1,600,000; but with the negroes supporting the armies of the South, they should be included, and that would make the Southern fighting force 2,400,000 as against at the end of a trial in court, if you please, the fighting force of the North at 4,000,000. The where he has met an adverse board that has re- young men who were 12, 13, 14, or 15 years at the outbreak of the war, coming in during the claim and has finally rendered judgment in his war, could not have been less than 100,000 favor-I say to take away from him that pen- | yearly at the South, and I think you will ad-

who might have been in the service, and with Mr. Coombs (N. Y., D.), in the course of his the negroes at home to take care of the whole,

side out of the fact that pensions have Now, the enlistments in the Northern army been suspended. Now, that was done in were 2,800,000. Of those not less than one-half response to the universal cry that went up a million were re-enlisted, so that the Northern throughout the country that the pension-roll army in the field was not over 2,200,000 or

Against that the South had, including its from no political party. It came as much from | negroes, a fighting force of 2,800,000, and yet the old soldiers and soldiers' organizations as | you say to us that you fought us for four years, and that you with only 600,000 men almost sub-Mr. Blair (N. H., R.) said that the cry that | stantially for those four years defeated the the pension-roll was a roll of dishonor, tainted | whole 2,800,000 or really 2,300,000 of the North-

As far back as 1881, in order to get at the But after all there are no facts behind such fraudulent pensioners, the entire roll was pub- statements. I have taken the pains to go back lished. It was examined in every community, to the census of 1860 to ascertain the facts and, as far as he knew, not one single, solitary | about this matter so that they may go into the jority, were engaged in an armed struggle for order to reach a comparison of these two peo-

ficers who led the armies of the Confederacy Mr. Mahon (Pa., R.) recapitulated the had learned war at West Point and in Mexico, votes upon the several general pension bills this bill. It was very difficult to enact the been cast against them and about 400 for them, Mexican service pension law; it was in fact | while over 1,000 Republican votes had been cast impossible, unless some provision should be in their favor and none against them. The for those who had served in the war of the the other Presidents since the war was also given by Mr. Mahon, showing that he had With a distinct understanding on my part, vetoes over 500 bills, while of the other Presisaid Mr. Blair, and, I think, generally on the dents Grant only had vetoed bills, and but five part of those who were friends of the soldier all told. These figures, he said, were signifielement in the North, that a separate provision | cant, and expressed the hostility of the Demowould be made for them in a separate act, sub- | cratic party against the pensioning of old sol-

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7.

In the Senate the House bill was passed, appropriating \$45,000 for the rescue of the armament of the wreck of the United States steamship Kearsarge. The Bland bill, after much discussion and

filibustering, was read a third time and went In the House, the Committee of the Whole considered the pension appropriation bill. Mr. Hudson (Kan., D.), who opened the debate for the day, criticised the conduct of the Pension Office both under the Harrison and

Cleveland Administrations. In Kansas, he said, there were 40,000 pensioners receiving on an average \$160, while in Massachusetts 84,000 pensioners receiving an average of \$180 per Do you think the Massachusetts soldiers

receive too much? interjected Mr. Walker. Let me tell the gentleman she has paid her soldiers \$23,000,000 in addition to all they had received from the General Government. Mr. Morse (Mass.), whose recent tilt with the Commissioner of Pensions is still fresh in the memory of the public, did not let the opportunity escape him of pouring a broadside against the PREVAILING PENSION POLICY.

He said he subscribed to the declaration of the gentleman from New York (Mr. Sickles) that the Commissioner of Pensions was guilty of bad law and bad manners. The Commissioner had assumed legislative as well as executive and udicial functions, and attempted to override the laws of Congress. The Bureau was being conducted on the principle "How not to do it." Mr. Stockdale (Miss., D.) supported the pension policy of Commissioner Lochren and the President. They were trying, he said, to rid the roll of the camp-followers and coffee-coolers and deserters in order to make it a historic and honored roll of the Nation's defenders. Mr. Johnson (Ind., R.) discussed the amend-

ment to the bill proposed by Mr. Enloe, constraing the law of Dec. 21, 1893, as not intended to prevent the temporary suspension of pensions where fraud is suspected, which, he said, terly impossible to pass it through the House of | was a protest by the Commissioner of Pensions as restricting and limiting the execution of the Bureau's policy relating to suspension of pen-Blair, there were on the pension-roll 966,012 sions. This amendment, Mr. Johnson said, might be the means of working great distress in the hands of an antagonistic official.

Mr. Johnson believed that 999 out of every 1,000 ex-soldiers were honestly deserving of their pensions. The existing statutes are AMPLY SUPPLICIENT

to furnish a remedy against all persons who have committed crimes against the pension

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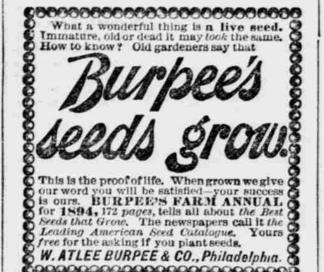
soap, as well as the purest and sweetest for toilet and nursery.

laws. Let the Government proceed as it has ness of the pensioner has been judicially deteralready proceeded to pursue those pension mined may here and there involve some little agents who have been charged with the crime | loss to the Government, but I am satisfied the of perjury and forgery, and those pensioners, amount will be small, much smaller than is if such there be, who have been guilty of asserted by those who falsely claim great frauds frauds against the pension laws, and punish to have been practiced in pension matters; them for their crimes. The vast power of the | and it is infinitely better that this condition of Government can be brought to bear upon those | affairs should exist than that any deserving men who have offended, and their speedy prose- pensioner should be humiliated, harassed,

a repetition of like crimes in the future. Whenever there is a reasonable belief that any | money which he ought to have in his pockets, pensioner is upon the rolls improperly, let the | with which to obtain the necessaries of life. 30 days' notice required by existing law be Mr. Thomas (Mich., R.) said that at this disgiven to him; let him be given an opportunity | cussion the division has been strictly partisan. to be heard in his own defense; and then if it In so far as I know the advocates of the policy be found that he had been drawing a pension | which jeopardizes the rights of these veterans improperly let that pension be dropped when are confined to the Democratic party. Gentlehis guilt has thus been ascertained.

pension money to be paid until the wrongful-



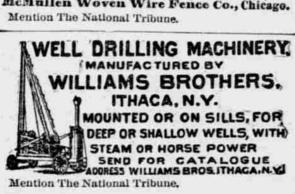


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WORK OF THE PENSION OFFICE. Certificates Issued During the Week Ending March 3, 1894.

CLASSES	Original.	Increase and ad-	Reissue.	Restoration.	Accrued.	Duplicates.	Total.	Act June 27, 1890, with—				Total issues Act June 27, 1890.	
								Original pending.	Original rejected.	Certificate pending.	Certificate not pend'g.	Original.	Add'l, etc.
Army Invalid	162	253	146	40			601						
Army Invalid, act June 27, 1890	241	15			104444	*****	256	56	34	17	239	331	271
Army Widow, etc	118		1	*****	320	*****							
Army Widow, etc., act June 27, 1890.	417			******			417	43	12	******	12	472	12
Navy Invalid	5 9		1	1		******	122			- 1		***	
Navy Invalid, act June 27, 1890	1		1		10000		9 2	*****	1	******	3	10	3
Navy Widow, etc Navy Widow, act June 27, 1890	21	********	1			17/00/00/00		2			- 3	23	
Army Nurse	5	5-555-555-555			1222200	1500000	5	-	*****		*****	20	*********
1812 Survivor	4			120125	1,100,000	2,000,000					_ ~#		
1812 Widow	1						1				- 1		
Old War Invalid				CASSINGT	2002000	12.2000							
Old War Widow	1						1			- 2			
Indian Wars Survivor	31				*****		81				H		
Indian Wars Widow	65	10000700000			*****		65				U		
Mexican War Survivor	4	84			*****	.,	88						
Mexican War Widow	16		*********		*****		18				- 11		
Act June 27, 1890, with other claims.	148	81	184	6			419				4		
Total	1245	434	833	47	320		2379	101	47	17	254	836	286

cution will soon have the effect of preventing | delayed, and inconvenienced-aye, sir, and distressed by withholding from him the pension

men may say this is a mere coincidence; but I grant that the practice of allowing the the careful student of American history encounters too many coincidences to be satisfied with the explanation.

A series of coincidences establishes a rule. Turn over the pages of the Congressional Record, | House. and wherever you find an opposition vote to any beneficial law for the soldier you invariably find a Democratic vote. And I will go one step farther, and say not a law upon which pension appropriations for the last war are based originated with the Democratic party. It was a custom among the Greeks to inflict a penalty on the prosecutor who failed to maintain his charges. If we had such a law here

and many a slander suppressed through fear. of fraud is exaggerated. First, because it is vague and uncertain; and, second, because it is not made where it can be investigated. It is safe to say that the pension-list is a roll of honor. It is from the muster-rolls of a thousand battlefields, from Charleston to Appomattox, from Shiloh to Gettysburg, from the Ohio to the Gulf, from the Atlantic to the Western

accusations would not be so flippantly made

names to adorn its pension-roll. Mr. Springer charged that the Pension Bureau had been used by the Republican party to affect the vote in Ohio and Indiana, which were doubtful States politically. Illinois averaged neither so many pensioners nor so much paid per pensioner per district as did both the States

The general debate was then brought to a close by Mr. O'Neil, in charge of the bill. He reviewed the various speeches by Republican members, and replied to their several criticisms of, and charges against, the Bureau. The close of Mr. O'Neil's speech was a eulogy upon the character and services of Gen. Black, the ex-Commissioner; Commissioner Lochren; Secretary Smith, and President Cleveland; and he declared the bill a generous expression of the Democratic party on the subject of pen-

The bill then came up for consideration under the five-minute rule and for amendment.

SEVERAL AMENDMENTS were read and presented, including Mr. Enloe's,

but were defeated either by points of order or without division. Mr. Henderson (Iowa, R.) said: I have been pained not a little during this debate that a measure which should inspire the heart and receive the indorsement of every American citizen divides this House almost as radically as though we were discussing some great war measure, and as though we represented here

different countries at war with each other. Yet, Mr. Chairman, I have seen this in Congress after Congress since I have been a member of this House. Frauds are charged here; and the impression is spread broadcast before the country that the pension-roll of the Republic is rotten. Yet not one scintilla of evidence to prove that charge has been offered in this House not

An eloquent tribute has just been paid by my distinguished colleague on the committee [Mr. O'Neil] to a gallant soldier, the honorable gentleman from Illinois, Gen. Black, who, I regret to see, is not present. Gen. Black deserves kind memories from this country; and I unite in every generous expression and thought in respect to him as a soldier. But, Mr. Chairman, while he stood up here before this Republic when the pension-roll was discussed, he held in one hand a beautiful bouquet of rhetoric to tempt and attract the soldiers of the Republic, while in his other hand he held a dagger to strike into their souls. Ah, gentlemen, scars are honorable, but they should not be made cloaks behind which to strike equally honorable men. For one, this debate shall not close without my crying "shame" upon the soldier who stands here leading a column to discredit pensioners of this Republic. [Applause on the Republican side.] You say there are frauds. I only

KNOW OF ONE CLASS OF PRAUDS that were perpetrated by the soldiers. I have seen boys too low in stature to be enlisted have blocks put under their heels to beat the examining Surgeons. I have known boys less than 18 to say that they were 19 to get under the

There were lots of that kind of fraud perpetrated. I know. On the other side of that great struggle many too old and too young had to go in; but as for frauds on this pension-roll, they are in your imagination. And yet you have talked. it so much in this and other debates that you have got many people in this country to believe that it is a rotten roll. Ah, gentlemen, when we were around in the little villages and in the big cities standing on stumps and boxes to rally men to leave their families and their homes to go and save the flag, we did not stop much upon the representations made, and they went pouring into the ranks by the hundreds and thousands from everywhere. And now it is a little hard, when you know how badly they have suffered and how inadequately the pension-roll testifies to their real sufferings and disabilities, to have such utterances as we have heard in this debate.

My God, have we a Union, and are we not all in it now? If so, let us try and pull together. and be just. In the last Congress, when fraud was charged, I challenged the Commissioner of Pensions to investigate and report to me the percentage of frauds on the pension-roll. He put it at less than 1 per cent, and so did Gen. Bussey, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, to whom pension appeals were taken. Without proof to the contrary, with positive proof that there is scarcely any fraud, yet pension frauds are made the slogan of this debate. Some openly attack the pension-roll, like the unfailing gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. Enloe), who, the unremitting champion of every sort of war or cotton claims, never charging on pointing out a fraud in that direction, is inexaustible in his efforts to cast some slur up

DEFENDERS OF THIS COUNTRY. Mr. Grow (Pa., R.) offered the last amendment, providing that no pension on account of disability in the service should be less than \$12 per month. A point of order was allowed against this amendment, but Mr. Grow made a brief speech, his first since his return to the

Mr. Grow's remarks BUBBLED OVER WITH PATRIOTISM and glowed with the fire of eloquence. He wanted the benefit received by the veterans disabled in battle to be of a substantial character during the remainder of their pilgrimage.

the survivors of the mighty conflict would sleep in the chamber of the dead. At the conclusion, the bill was passed without division, and substantially in the form in There is every reason to believe that this charge | which it was reported by the Committee on Appropriations.

It would be but a few years before the last of

On Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday, little was done in either House of Congress. In the Senate Mr. Harris was occupied in trying to arrange for closing of debate on the seigniorage bill, and the House fought over the District appropriations. Routine business took up the



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